Encyclopaedia Aristasiana

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The Aristasian Calendar

Aristasia has a five-season solar Calendar based on thirteen symbolically-lunar months of exactly 28 days each (the length of a true lunar month). There is a one-day hiatus between the end of the old year and the start of the new. On leap years this hiatus is two days. In Aristasia-in-Telluria this Calendar is used alongside the Tellurian twelve-month Calendar.

The Aristasian year starts at the Spring Equinox on the 1st of Culverine (21st of March).

The Five Seasons and Thirteen Months

Spring (Element: Water, Primary symbol: the Dove, Direction: East)

Culverine/Columbina *(Mar. 21 - Apr. 17)* - the Dove Month, month of Rebirth.

Maia *(Apr. 18 - May 15)* - the month of Maia (first person of the Werde trinity - the weaver of the web of life, creatrix of the world-illusion).

Hela/Hera *(May 16 - June 12)* - the Heroine Month, or Saint Month.

Summer (Element: Fire, Primary symbol: the Rose, Direction: South)

Rosea/Rosimond *(June 3th - July 10th)* - the Rose Month.

Kerea *(July 11th - Aug. 7th)* - the Corn Month.

Hesperis/Vaskaras *(Aug. 8th - Sept. 4th)* - the Evening Month.

Autumn (Element: Earth, Primary symbol: the Apple, Direction: West)

Mala/Abolan *(Sept. 5th - Oct. 2nd)* - the Apple Month.

Vois/Hadora (Vois pron. - approximately - Voish) *(Oct. 3rd - Oct 30th)* - the month of the Cow and of Butter, which also symbolises speech.

Werde *(Oct. 31st - Nov. 27th)* - the month of Werde, or Fate.

Winter (Element: Air, Primary symbol: the Star, Direction: North)

Astraea/Estrelle *(Nov. 28th - Dec. 25th)* - the Star Month.

Herthe/Hertha *(Dec. 26th - Jan. 22nd)* - the Month of Hertha, Janya of the Hearth Fire.

Brighe *(Jan. 23rd - Feb. 19th)* - the Month of Brighe, Janya of Bridges, Gateways and Places of Passage.

Moura (Element: Aethyr, Primary symbol: the Wheel, Direction: Vertical)

Moura/Khala *(Feb. 20th - Mar. 19th, or Mar. 18th on a leap year)* - the Month and Season of Death.

Hiatus: *(Mar 20th, or Mar 19th and 20th on a leap year)* - the day(s) out of the year and "out of time". It falls in no month and no season and has no date.

Symbolism

The Symbol of the four full seasons is essentially five-pointed. The Dove (Spring) with its two wings, two legs and head forms a five-pointed figure (as does the Cosmic Maid depicted on the cover of *The Feminine Universe*). The Rosa Simpla or briar-rose (Summer) is five-petalled (this five-petalled rose is also the emblem of the Province of Quirinelle). An apple (Autumn), cut transversely, will reveal a five-pointed star formed from its seeds. The Star of Winter is five-pointed.

Moura is sometimes symbolised by a six-spoked wheel, which is normally regarded as the Wheel of Werde (Fate), while the eight-pointed wheel is the Wheel of Thamë. Sai Thamë is the Janya corresponding to the Tellurian planet Jupiter and is also the mother of Werde.

A six-armed "cross", known as the Rose of the Winds, represents the four horizontal directions (corresponding to the four elements and four seasons) plus the two vertical ones (corresponding to Aethyr and Moura). This meaning is

also implicit in the Wheel of Werde.

The year has eight Great Festivals at the two Solstices and two Equinoxes and at the four "cross-quarter" days between them. (These, of course, also make up a Wheel of Thamë). There are many other festivals, some of which are very important in certain parts of the Empire and much less so in others. Most of these are the Feast-Days of greater and lesser Janyati (angels) or Helati (saints).

The 28-day lunar month is a solar-year-in-miniature with four weeks (a week being one cycle of the Seven Great Janyati) each representing a season - the Full- and Dark-moon weeks representing Summer and Winter respectively and the Crescent and Decrescent half-moon weeks representing Spring and Autumn respectively.

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